

Group III, claims 18-25, drawn to apparatus/method directed to gain control for a servo signal when an optical head is in tracking and when the optical head is in seeking, classified in class 369, subclass 44.29.

The Examiner asserts that the three Groups are variously related as subcombinations usable together, and that an undue search burden would be imposed to maintain all pending claims in the application. Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that an undue burden would be imposed because these claim Groups have already been substantively examined.

The Examiner has already issued a substantive office action on the merits on October 6, 2006 addressing the rejection of each of claims 1-20. These claims encompass the Examiner's recently identified Groups I, II, and III.

Further, the Examiner's Search Strategy, obtained online from PAIR and provided as an attachment to this Response, indicates that the Examiner did not previously search *any* class or subclass, but instead merely relied upon a "keyword" search in the various USPTO databases. This search apparently was adequate to issue the art rejections in the October 6, 2006 Office Action, and the results of this search are suggested as being pertinent to the pending claims, including the added claims 21-25, now categorized in previously pending Group III.

Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 1-25 presently pending in this application be examined.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues in this case, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below.

Applicants believe that no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22171-00017-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Due Date: April 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Larry J. Hume/  
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Attachment: Examiner's Search Strategy